

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

entering user input into a computer system, wherein the user input comprises a
5 plurality of numeric values, one or more mathematical operators, and a character string;
displaying a window on a display screen coupled to the computer system, wherein
the window comprises a plurality of rows and at least one column, wherein the at least
one column comprises a plurality of number fields and a plurality of operation fields;
displaying the mathematical operators in columnar format in the operation fields;
10 displaying the numeric values in columnar format in the number fields;
displaying the character string in one of the rows such that the character string
spans a width of at least one of the operation fields and one of the number fields;
automatically calculating a result by applying the mathematical operators to the
numeric values; and
15 displaying the result on the display screen.

2. The method of claim 1,

wherein the displaying the mathematical operators in columnar format in the
operation fields comprises displaying the mathematical operators in two or more
20 columns;

wherein the displaying the numeric values in columnar format in the number
fields comprises displaying the numeric values in the two or more columns; and

wherein each of the two or more columns comprises one or more operation fields
and one or more number fields.

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3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

interpreting the character string as one or more numeric values.

4. The method of claim 3,
wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the mathematical operators to the character string.

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5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
interpreting the character string as one or more mathematical operators.

6. The method of claim 5,
10 wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the character string to the numeric values.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
15 interpreting the character string as one or more formulas.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
calculating a result of at least one of the formulas to generate a resulting numeric value.

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9. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
interpreting the character string as one or more references to numeric values in other number fields.

25 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
resolving at least one of the references to generate a resulting numeric value.

11. The method of claim 2,

wherein the user input further comprises one or more comment strings;
wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the plurality of number
fields and the plurality of operation fields further comprises a plurality of comment fields;
and

5 wherein the method further comprises:
 displaying the comment strings in columnar format in the comment fields.

12. A system comprising:

 a CPU;
10 a display screen coupled to the CPU;
 a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions
which are executable by the CPU to:

 receive user input into the memory, wherein the user input comprises a
plurality of numeric values, one or more mathematical operators, and a character string;

15 display a window on the display screen, wherein the window comprises a
plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, wherein at least one of the columns
comprises a plurality of number fields and a plurality of operation fields;

 display the mathematical operators in columnar format in the operation
fields;

20 display the numeric values in columnar format in the number fields;

 display the character string in one of the rows such that the character string
spans a width of at least one of the operation fields and one of the number fields;

 automatically calculate a result by applying the mathematical operators to
the numeric values; and

25 display the result on the display screen.

13. The system of claim 12,

wherein the displaying the mathematical operators in columnar format in the operation fields comprises displaying the mathematical operators in two or more columns;

wherein the displaying the numeric values in columnar format in the number
5 fields comprises displaying the numeric values in the two or more columns; and

wherein each of the two or more columns comprises one or more operation fields and one or more number fields.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable
10 by the CPU to:

interpret the character string as one or more numeric values.

15. The system of claim 14,
wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical
15 operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the mathematical operators to the character string.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable
by the CPU to:
20 interpret the character string as one or more mathematical operators.

17. The system of claim 16,
wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical
operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the character string to the
25 numeric values.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable
by the CPU to:

interpret the character string as one or more formulas.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

5 calculate a result of at least one of the formulas to generate a resulting numeric value.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

10 interpret the character string as one or more references to numeric values in other number fields.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

15 resolve at least one of the references to generate a resulting numeric value.

22. The system of claim 13,
wherein the user input which is received into the memory further comprises one or more comment strings;

20 wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the plurality of number fields and the plurality of operation fields further comprises a plurality of comment fields;
and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:
display the comment strings in columnar format in the comment fields.

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23. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

receiving user input into a memory, wherein the user input comprises a plurality of numeric values, one or more mathematical operators, and a character string;

displaying a window on a display screen, wherein the window comprises a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, wherein at least one of the columns
5 comprises a plurality of number fields and a plurality of operation fields;

displaying the mathematical operators in columnar format in the operation fields;

displaying the numeric values in columnar format in the number fields;

displaying the character string in one of the rows such that the character string spans a width of at least one of the operation fields and one of the number fields;

10 automatically calculating a result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values; and

displaying the result on the display screen.

24. The carrier medium of claim 23,

15 wherein the displaying the mathematical operators in columnar format in the operation fields comprises displaying the mathematical operators in two or more columns;

wherein the displaying the numeric values in columnar format in the number fields comprises displaying the numeric values in the two or more columns; and

20 wherein each of the two or more columns comprises one or more operation fields and one or more number fields.

25. The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

25 interpreting the character string as one or more numeric values.

26. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the mathematical operators to the character string.

5 27. The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

interpreting the character string as one or more mathematical operators.

10 28. The carrier medium of claim 27,
wherein the automatically calculating the result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values further comprises applying the character string to the numeric values.

15 29. The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

interpreting the character string as one or more formulas.

20 30. The carrier medium of claim 29, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

calculating a result of at least one of the formulas to generate a resulting numeric value.

25 31. The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

interpreting the character string as one or more references to numeric values in other number fields.

32. The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

resolving at least one of the references to generate a resulting numeric value.

5 33. The carrier medium of claim 24,

wherein the user input which is received into the memory further comprises one or more comment strings;

wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the plurality of number fields and the plurality of operation fields further comprises a plurality of comment fields;

10 and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

displaying the comment strings in columnar format in the comment fields.

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